

We claim:

1. A method for identifying a plurality of active devices on a network, the method comprising:
  - A. simultaneously issuing to the plurality of active devices, by each of a plurality of worker threads, a request for information,  
wherein the information comprises an indication of a presence of the active device on the network, and wherein all of the plurality of worker threads are capable of performing identical functions in response to the request for information;
  - B. receiving, in response to the request, the information; and
  - C. storing the received information.
2. A machine-readable medium that includes instructions for discovering active devices on a network, wherein such instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:
  - A. simultaneously issue to the plurality of active devices, by each of a plurality of worker threads, a request for information,  
wherein the information comprises an indication of a presence of the active device on the network, and wherein all of the plurality of worker threads are capable of performing identical functions in response to the request for information;
  - B. receive, in response to the request, the information; and
  - C. store the received information.
3. A computer system for identifying a plurality of active devices on a network, the computer system comprising:
  - A. a computer that processes (1) a plurality of request objects each comprising a representation of one of the active devices and a request for information about the active device; and (2) a manager object comprising a plurality of worker threads;  
wherein the manager object (a) receives each of the plurality of request objects; (b) organizes each of the received request objects into a request queue; (c) distributes each of the received request objects in the request queue to one of the plurality of worker threads, wherein all of the plurality of worker threads are capable of performing identical functions in response to the request for information; (d) receives asynchronously from each of the plurality of worker threads the request object after the request for information has been fulfilled; and (e) organizes each of the received request objects after the request for information has been fulfilled into a result queue; and
  - B. a storage device coupled to the computer.

4. A method for identifying a plurality of active devices on a network, the method comprising:
  - A. executing a program comprising (1) issuing to each of the active devices one or more first requests for information comprising an indication of a presence of the device on the network and a device architecture; and (2) receiving in response to the first requests a response;
  - B. identifying, based on the device architecture indicated in the response, one or more scripts that request additional information about the device, wherein the scripts are customizable and executed outside the program;
  - C. executing the scripts; and
  - D. receiving the additional information.
5. A machine-readable medium that includes instructions for discovering active devices on a network, wherein such instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:
  - A. execute a program comprising (1) issuing to each of the active devices one or more first requests for information comprising an indication of a presence of the device on the network and a device architecture; and (2) receiving in response to the first requests a response;
  - B. identify, based on the device architecture indicated in the response, one or more scripts that request additional information about the device, wherein the scripts are customizable and executed outside the program;
  - C. execute the scripts; and
  - D. receive the additional information.
6. A computer system for identifying a plurality of active devices on a network, the computer system comprising:
  - A. a computer, in communication with the network, that
    - executes a program comprising (1) issuing to each of the active devices one or more first requests for information comprising an indication of a presence of the device on the network and a device architecture; and (2) receiving in response to the first requests a response;
    - identifies, based on the device architecture indicated in the response, one or more scripts that request additional information about the device, wherein the scripts are customizable and executed outside the program;
    - executes the scripts; and
    - receives the additional information; and
  - B. a storage device coupled to the computer that stores the response and the additional information.